

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 IO-14 SY-10 USSS-00

EB-11 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /190 W

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R 301225Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5013

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY THEHAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USINT CAIRO BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 2355

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MT

SUBJ: KLM HIJACKING: REMARKS OF EGYPTIAN THIRD SECRETARY

REF: VALLETTA 2339 (NOTAL)

1. HAZAM M. TAHAR, EGYPTIAN THIRD SECRETARY, WHO WAS IN LUQA CONTROL TOWER THROUGHOUT NEGOTIATIONS WITH HIJACKERS, INFORMED EMBOFF DURING CONVERSATION THAT HIJACKERS HAD OFFERED EXCHANGE PASSENGERS FOR FUEL SHORTLY AFTER LANDING. TAHAR SAID PM MINTOFF ARRIVED AFTER OFFER WAS MADE AND THAT MINTOFF'S CONTRIBUTION WAS TO INSIST AS A GESTURE OF TRUST THAT THE HIJACKERS RELEASE HALF THE PASSENGERS AFTER HALF THE FUEL HAD BEEN DELIVERED AND THE REST OF THE PASSENGERS WHEN THE REST OF THE FUEL WAS DELIVERED, FOLLOWING WHICH OIL FOR THE ENGINES WAS ALSO PROVIDED.

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2. TAHAR ADDED THAT HE WAS INFORMED OF THE NAME OF THE

FIRST HIJACKER DESCRIBED IN PARA 2 REFTEL AHTOUGH THIS WAS OBVIOUSLY A CODE NAME, E.G. ABU MO'ASH. HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE OTHER HIJACKERS CONCURS WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED REFTEL.

3. ACCORDING TO TAHAR, THE DUTCH PM TELEPHONED THE CONTROL TOWER DURING MINTOFF'S PRESENCE. MINTOFF ASKED HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY JOE CAMILLERI, HOWEVER, TO ACCEPT THE CALL. TAHAR SAID THAT ALTHOUGH MINTOFF WAS AT THAT TIME NOT RPT NOT OTHERWISE OCCUPIED HE TOLD CAMILLERI TO SAY HE WAS BUSY AND WOULD CALL BACK LATER.

4. TAHAR UNDERSTOOD THAT ULTIMATE DESTINATION OF HIJACKERS WAS JAPAN, AND DUBAI WAS ONE OF ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS FOR REFUELING. LEBANESE TRANSLATOR FAISAL SALAM, HOWEVER, HAD NOT BEEN TOLD EITHER ABOVE BY HIJACKERS; TAHAR'S UNDERSTANDING APPARENTLY CAME FROM OVERHEARING INTERNAL AIRCRAFT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HIJACKERS.

5. TAHAR'S PERSONAL OPINION WAS THAT HIJACKERS IN FUTURE WILL USE DUBAI AND MALTA AT LEAST AS REFUELING POINTS. AT OUTSET MINTOFF HAD OFFERED PERSONAL CAR TO CONVEY HIJACKERS AND WEAPONS FOR SAFE CONDUCT. HE COMMENTED THAT THIS OFFER WAS MORE GENEROUS THAN ANY OTHER STATES HAVE OFFERED.

6. AS POINT OF INTEREST TAHAR BELIEVED NO RPT NO EXPLOSIVES WERE ACTUALLY ON BOARD.GETZ

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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